

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended): An image storage and delivery method for recording and reproducing image data from a web camera via a network, the method comprising:

a first temporarily storing step of temporarily storing, by the web camera, images in a first memory, wherein the web camera takes the images consecutively in time-series;

a normal recording step wherein an of intermittently receiving, by a storage server, image data from the first memory, wherein the storage server records the image data in a first storage area of a disk device received by the web camera is recorded as first image data with a first image quality and time stamps;

a second temporarily storing step of temporarily storing, by the web camera, predetermined frames of the images taken by the web camera as second data with a second image quality in a second memory,

wherein when an alarm occurs, the storage server performs performing:

a requesting step of requesting the web camera to deliver wherein delivery of the second image data representative of at least one of the images taken received by the web camera before the alarm occurred is requested from the web camera, and

an alarm recording step of recording ~~wherein the second image data~~  
from the second memory ~~web camera is recorded in a second storage area of the~~  
disk device with ~~a second~~ the second image quality and a time stamp without  
stopping the normal recording step, whereby the second ~~image~~ data and part of the  
first ~~image~~ data are representative of ~~the~~ an image at the same time; and

~~a reproduction step wherein, during reproduction of data representative of the~~  
image at said same time, a reproduction step of preferentially receiving, by a client  
terminal, the recorded second ~~image~~ data, having a higher image quality than the  
first ~~image~~ data, rather than the first data, and seamlessly reproducing, by the client  
terminal, the first data and the second data along the time series ~~is preferentially~~  
~~reproduced~~ when an instruction for seamless playback is received from a user.

14. (canceled).

15. (canceled).

16. (currently amended): The image storage and delivery method  
according to claim ~~15~~ 13,

wherein the image quality indicates at least one of a frame rate, a  
compression factor, and a resolution, and

wherein the higher image quality indicates at least one of a higher frame rate,  
a lower compression factor and a higher resolution.

17. (currently amended): The image storage and delivery method  
according to claim 16, wherein the first data and the second ~~image~~ data from the

web camera ~~is~~ are compressed by the web camera in an IP (Internet Protocol) packet form.

18. (currently amended): The image storage and delivery method according to claim 17, wherein the first data and the second ~~image~~ data from the web camera ~~includes~~ include still images compressed in a JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) format or a corresponding format, and the first data and the second ~~image~~ data are recorded in a format for recording the image data intermittently.

19. (currently amended): An image storage and delivery ~~method~~ system for recording and reproducing image data ~~from~~ comprising:

a web ~~camera~~ camera;

a storage server; and

a client terminal.

wherein the web camera comprises:

an encoder ~~for~~ compressing and encoding ~~an~~ images received taken by the web camera at a predetermined frame rate and outputting the encoded compressed signal as image ~~data~~ data;

a first memory ~~for~~ storing a latest one frame of the outputted image data or a plurality of frames of the outputted image data which are intermittently ~~recorded~~ recorded; and

a second memory ~~for storing~~ retaining the outputted image data over a predetermined time period at an alarm recording rate,

wherein the image storage server; ~~and delivery method comprising~~:

~~a first requesting step wherein~~requests the web camera to deliver~~delivery of first image data in the first memory representative of an image received by the web camera is requested from the web camera;~~

~~a normal recording step wherein~~intermittently records~~when the request for delivery of the first image data is received by the web camera or when a predetermined timing occurs, image data is transmitted from the first memory and recorded as the first image data with a first image quality and time stamps when image data is transmitted from the first memory based on the request for delivery of the first image data or based on a predetermined timing; and~~

wherein when an alarm occurs, the storage server performing:

requests the web camera to deliver~~a second requesting step wherein delivery of second image data, which is in the second memory and representative of at least one of the images received taken by the web camera before the alarm occurred is requested from the web camera,~~

records the second image data received from the second memory with a second image quality and a time stamp without stopping intermittently recording the image data when the image data is transmitted from the second memory based on an alarm~~recording step wherein when the request for delivery of the second image data is received by the web camera, image data is transmitted from the second memory and recorded as the second image data with a second image quality without stopping the normal recording step, whereby the second image quality is higher than the first image quality and the second image data and part of the first image data are representative of the image at the same time, and~~

wherein when an instruction for seamless playback is received from a user, the client terminal preferentially receives the recorded~~a reproduction step wherein, during reproduction of data representative of the image at said same time, the~~

second image data, which has ~~having~~ a higher image quality than the first image data, rather than the first image data from the storage server, and seamlessly reproduces the first data and second data along the time series ~~is preferentially reproduced when an instruction for seamless playback is received from a user.~~

20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended): The image storage and delivery ~~method~~ system according to claim ~~13~~19, wherein the ~~reproduction step~~ client terminal comprises:

determines whether ~~comparing, a client terminal,~~ a time stamp of a second latest ~~last~~ acquired image in a reproduced image memory for a normal channel is later than ~~with~~ a time stamp of a second latest ~~last~~ acquired image in a reproduced image memory for an alarm channel;

~~if the time stamp of the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the alarm channel is judged to be later and if the time stamp of the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for alarm channel is judged to indicate the same time as the time stamp of the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the normal channel, then first reading out, by the client terminal, the last acquired image from the reproduced image memory for the alarm channel, outputting the last acquired image to a monitor, and reproducing the image data;~~

~~if the time stamp of the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the normal channel is judged to be later, then calculating, by the client terminal,~~ calculates a difference in time stamp between the latest acquired image and the second latest ~~last~~ acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the alarm

channel, if the time stamp of the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the normal channel is determined to be later;

calculates a continuation-decision value based on~~second reading out, by the client terminal, frame rate information given to~~ of the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the alarm channel as additional information, and calculating an alarm continuation decision value;

compares ~~comparing, by the client terminal, the difference calculated by the calculating step with the alarm continuation-decision value calculated at the second reading out step;~~

outputs the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for an alarm channel to a monitor if the difference is equal to or less than the continuation-decision value or the time stamp of the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the alarm channel is determined to be later; and, ~~then first reading out, by the client terminal, the last acquired image from the reproduced image memory for the alarm channel, outputting the last acquired image to a monitor, and reproducing the image data the processing; and~~

~~if the difference in time stamp is greater than the alarm continuation-decision value, then third reading out the client terminal~~ reads ~~the last acquired image from the reproduced image memory for the normal channel, outputting~~ outputs ~~the last acquired image to the monitor, and reproducing~~ reproduces ~~the image data.~~